Appl. No. 10/608,773
Amdt. dated July 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2007

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1.   (currently amended) A method for communicating with a camera
2   connectable to a network, the method comprising:
3   enabling the camera to function as a unique instant messenger client for an instant
4   messenger service by registering a unique login with the instant messenger service for the
5   camera, and programming the unique login into the camera; and
6   receiving messages from the camera over the network via the instant messenger
7   service;
8   whereby the camera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client,
9   and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service;
10   sending messages to the camera over the network over the instant messenger
11 service; and
12   converting said messages into commands for said camera.

1   2.   (canceled)

1   3.   (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2   pre-defining at least one pre-existing user of the instant messenger service with
3   whom the camera is allowed to communicate.

4   4.   (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
5   sending messages to the camera over the network over the instant messenger
6   service.

1   5.   (previously amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2   pre-defining at least one message which can be sent to the camera, and at least
3   one action to be taken by the camera upon receiving the message.

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1   6.   (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the messages

2 received from the camera over the network via the instant messenger service are initiated by the

3 camera in response to a pre-specified criterion being satisfied.

1   7.   (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the camera is a

2 webcam.

1   8.   (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the webcam initiates sending a

2 message over the network via the instant messenger service when the webcam detects motion.

1   9.   (canceled)

1   10.   (currently amended) A method for communicating with a camera using an

2 instant messenger service, the method comprising:

3   enabling the camera to function as an instant messenger client for the instant

4 messenger service by registering a unique login with the instant messenger service for the

5 camera;

6   connecting the camera to a network;

7   receiving messages from the camera over the network over the instant messenger

8 service; and

9   sending messages to the camera over the network over the instant messenger

10 service;

11   whereby the camera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client,

12 and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service so that direct communication with the

13 camera through the instant messenger service is possible.

1   11.   (previously amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2   pre-defining at least one message which can be sent to the camera, and at least

3 one action to be taken by the camera upon receiving the message.

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1   12.   (previously amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the messages

2   received from the camera over the network are initiated by the camera in response to a pre-

3   specified criterion being satisfied.

1   13.   (currently amended) A camera enabled to function as a unique instant

2   messenger user over a network, the camera comprising:

3   an autonomous IM application module, which identifies the camera as a unique

4   instant messenger user to an instant messenger service; and

5   a network interface coupled to the autonomous IM application module, to connect

6   to the network to communicate with at least one other instant messenger user over the instant

7   messenger service;

8   whereby the camera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client,

9   and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service <u>so that direct communication with the</u>

10   <u>camera through the instant messenger service is possible</u>.

1   14.   (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the autonomous

2   imaging module initiates communication with the at least one other instant messenger user.

1   15.   (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the camera is a

2   webcam.

1   16.   (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the camera is

2   compliant with a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

1   17.   (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the camera is

2   compliant with a SIP for Instant Messaging Presence Leveraging Extension protocol (SIMPLE).

1   18.   (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, further comprising:

2   a predefined instructions module coupled to the autonomous IM application, to

3   instruct the camera regarding interpreting instant messages received from the at least one other

4   instant messenger user.